

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-09 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 DOTE-00 GAC-01 RSR-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /111 W

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R 261215 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4121

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, MT

SUBJECT: NEW DRYDOCKS WORK RULES

REF: VALLETTA 0554

1. NEW WORK RULES FOR MALTA DRYDOCKS WORKERS WERE ANNOUNCED
MAR 24 AFTER LAST WEEK'S NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOM, YARD MANAGE-
MENT, AND GWU OFFICERS CHAIRED BY MEDIATOR DANNY CREMONA.

2. NEW RULES PROVIDE FOR A FORTY- HOUR FIVE- DAY WEEK (7:30 A. M.-
4:15 P. M. WITH 45 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK); A ONE POUND A WEEK
COST OF LIVING WAGE INCREASE; AND TOTAL FLEXIBILITY ON TYPE
OF WORK PERFORMED. OVERTIME PAID ON A FLAT RATE CAN BE
ORDERED BY MANAGEMENT ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS; AND A BACK- UP
WORK FORCE CAN BE CALLED IN TO WORK FROM 3:30 P. M. TO 9:00 P. M.
WHEN NECESSARY. WORKERS WILL BE GIVEN TIME OFF IN LIEU OF
FORMER OVERTIME PREMIUM RATES, AND ONLY PAID THOSE RATES IF
THEY ARE UNABLE TO BE GIVEN TIME OFF WITHIN AN EIGHT DAY
PERIOD FOLLOWING THE DAY IN WHICH WORK PERFORMED.

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3. SENIOR STAFF ARE TO TAKE A SALARY CUT FROM 7 TO 12 PERCENT DEPENDING UPON SALARY LEVEL; THEIR MESS IS TO BE CLOSED, AND THEY WILL LOSE TELEPHONE AND AUTOMOBILE PRIVILEGES. THE NEW RULES WILL BE REVIEWED IN SIX MONTHS TIME.

4. CREMONA SAID THAT MINTOFF NOTED THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS " WITH SATISFACTION." LOCAL PRESS, MAINLY OCCUPIED WITH 1973/74 BUDGET, REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE NEW MEASURES ARE MUCH LESS STRINGENT THAN THOSE PROPOSED BY MINTOFF AND REPRESENT A BACKDOWN BY HIM. YET HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE GWU, AND BY IMPLICATION THE WORKERS AS WELL, TO ACCEPT MEASURES WHICH THEY STILL REGARD AS VERY TOUGH INDEED. HE ALSO OBTAINED, AGAIN BY IMPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE BY THE GWU AND WORKERS OF AT LEAST PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GETTING THE YARD ON ITS FEET. WHILE YARD WORKERS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO GRUMBLE, IT APPEARS AT THIS STAGE THAT MINTOFF HAS TURNED A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS POLITICAL SITUATION TO HIS ADVANTAGE. ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THE NEW MEASURES WILL BRING THE YARD TO A BREAK-EVEN POSITION. GETZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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